

June 2005

## ATG Interviews Norman Demarais

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### Recommended Citation

Cook, Donna Capelle (2005) "ATG Interviews Norman Demarais," *Against the Grain*: Vol. 17: Iss. 3, Article 17.  
DOI: <https://doi.org/10.7771/2380-176X.4886>

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can populate such modules, and/or a library's own portal; or they can turn to their serial vendors (or serial data vendors) for added services and support in this area, without themselves managing a database or portal of their own. This overview of the non-ILS providers of ERM services points to a diverse set of offerings now on the market, which range, at the simplest level, from enhanced subscription support for ejournals, along with some basic reporting or listing/access tools for eresources (such as those offered by the two serial vendors here, **Harrassowitz** and **Swets**) to systems that are closer in their range of functionality and deep support for license management to the full-service, ILS-based ERM modules discussed in part one of this overview (such as **SerialsSolutions** and **TDNet**.) A library will need to think deeply and broadly about what kind of services they want to offer, and consider what resources they have internally to devote to such services, before choosing a path. Some of the likely scenarios (which are not mutually exclusive) include:

- Asking a serial vendor to enhance service offerings to help support the activation and maintenance of electronic serials, primarily to aid the library staff;
- Paying a company like **TDNet** or **SerialsSolutions** to manage and host every aspect of electronic resources, from

listing the titles for public end users in an A-Z list, keeping track of package contents, and allowing library staff a means of encoding some license terms;

- Taking eresource data from one provider, such as **SerialsSolutions** or **TDNet**, and using it to populate a library's own locally managed tools, such as a portal, an **OPAC**, a customized third-party provider's A-Z list, or even a full homegrown ERM;<sup>4</sup>
- Continuing to invest in access through the **OPAC** by using an ERM from the library's ILS provider that can interoperate with the **OPAC** (and possibly purchase eresource data from the ILS provider, as well, depending on whether the ILS provider offers this service), or by integrating a third party's eresource data (such as **TDNet** or **SerialsSolutions**) into the **OPAC**.

The full array of options is somewhat overwhelming — to use one of my witty colleague **Rich Wenger's** best lines, in thinking about all of the possible scenarios, "my imagination hurts." Nevertheless, the library community should be pleased that we have so many methods and options available to us now to support electronic resource management. In the face of such diverse options, though, one challenge to libraries is to sufficiently understand local needs and capabilities, as well as the fertile and complex market growing up around us, so as to be able to map the two together and come up with the best set of services for our staffs and com-

munities. This two-part overview of the ERM marketplace is only a snapshot of a rapidly moving target, but the hope is that it will offer a starting point for libraries who are beginning to do this kind mapping of needs to options by investigating the ERM services, tools, and support that are now available. And we should not forget, in evaluating the dizzying array of choices, that we also need to continue to advocate about our needs for managing digital resources, and to invest time and energy in the work on industry standards and guidelines for ERM, an investment that offers hope for increased efficiencies and flexibility in the future. 

### Endnotes

1. MIT is a codevelopment partner for ExLibris' Verde system but has not yet made a decision about whether or when to adopt it.
2. For more information on these guidelines see: <http://www.diglib.org/standards/dlf-erm02.htm>.
3. A Special thanks to the following individuals for taking the time to contribute responses for this article, some of them on short notice: Jeff Aipperspach and Tina Feick, Swets; Kathy Klemperer and Knut Dorn, Harrassowitz; Michael Markwith, TDNet; Oliver Pesch, EBSCO; and Mike Showalter, SerialsSolutions (Proquest).
4. For a list and description of homegrown tools, see: the information under "Local e-Resource Management Systems" at: <http://www.library.cornell.edu/cts/elicensestudy/home.html>. This site also offers updates on the commercial ERM systems.

## ATG Interviews Norman Desmarais

**Author, *Battleground of Freedom: A Historical Guide to the Battlefields of the War of American Independence*, BUSCA, Inc. (forthcoming); Acquisitions Librarian, Providence College**

by **Donna Capelle Cook** (Head, Bibliographic Services Department, Howard-Tilton Memorial Library, Tulane University, New Orleans, LA 70118; Phone: 504-865-5692) <[dcook@tulane.edu](mailto:dcook@tulane.edu)>

**ATG:** Norm, you have a new book coming out and it's very different from your usual works on technology. How did you come up with the idea?

**ND:** Jack Montgomery is one of the editors of **ATG**. He's quite involved with a number of projects. He and I room together at **ALA** and at the **Charleston Conference**. We happened to be talking about publication ideas and projects. I was sort of in a dry spell at the time. I think it was at **ALA** one summer. Jack had gone by Michael Cooper's booth. Michael is president of **BUSCA, Inc.**, a book vendor up in Ithaca, New York and another friend of mine. Jack happened to see a book that caught his attention. He was telling me about it. That sort of spurred some ideas. We got together with Michael and he wanted to pursue it. We settled on this history book, partly because Michael knew I was a reenactor. He thought that because I was a reenactor that this would fit in more with my interests, my hobby. I'd done a multi-media CD-ROM on the **American Revolution** back in 1996, when I was on my previous sabbatical. He thought this was a great op-



Norman Desmarais and John Riley.

portunity to leverage that and to go from there. That's how this came about.

**ATG:** How did you become interested in this period?

**ND:** I've always been interested in the 18th century, particularly the **American Revolution**. During the bicentennial I had gone to Lexington and Concord for the reenactments there.

That sort of fascinated me. I had followed some of these events through the bicentennial period. When I started working on my sabbatical project, I had to get in contact with a reenactment regiment for photos. I was introduced to somebody who commanded a unit in Rhode Island. I happened to be talking to the commander of the brigade. He called over a captain of the Rhode Island regiment and introduced me to him. This was at the end of the reenactment season. We swapped names and phone numbers and stuff. I thought that would be the last I would hear from him. The following spring I got a call and he asked me if I was interested in participating. I went along for an event and enjoyed it. One thing led to another and I've been doing it ever since. That was 1996. I don't have a degree in American History. It's an interest. It's always been a side interest.

**ATG:** So, this isn't something you've been doing since you were young?

**ND:** No. I just started reenacting in 1996. Many of the people involved in reenacting are older than the common soldiers would have

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been back then. Some have been involved since the bicentennial. Many others are relatively new to this hobby and we're always looking for new recruits — young or older. The captain in my regiment was involved in the bicentennial and has been active in reenacting for over 30 years.

**ATG:** *How often do you do reenactments?*

**ND:** Well, some years there are more than others. Last year was a slow year so we had about one a month. This year is a going to be a busy year. You could go to one every week if you wanted to from April through November. There's one just about every week somewhere. However, there are some that become so distant that you have to plan long in advance and they sometimes become prohibitive in terms of cost and logistics. For example, last year we went to Quebec for a very big weekend. It was like the Super Bowl of reenactments. We drew a crowd about 70,000 spectators, 3-4,000 reenactors. For Quebec you have to get customs declarations for the weapons and gunpowder. It can become somewhat of a problem. If you're traveling by plane there's another problem because you may not be able bring some weapons and equipment on board. You definitely can't fly with artillery. That has to be hauled by truck. After 9/11 there was a big event in New York and we were wondering how we were going to get over the bridges because there were regulations on explosives. The New York police tell you that you're not allowed to bring class B explosives on the bridges. Does gunpowder classify as a class B explosive? They couldn't explain it. So we figured well, we'll take our chances.

**ATG:** *What is the "season" for reenactments?*

**ND:** Primarily spring and summer, and also the fall. There are a few winter events, particularly in the south, where the summers are much too hot. For example, the Battle of Guilford Courthouse is in March. The Battle of Charleston is going to be in May this year, the weekend of May 14-15. This is going to be a big event. People will be arriving as early as the 12th. The 225th anniversary of the surrender of the city of Charleston is May 12. The camps are going to be at **Drayton Hall Plantation** and **Magnolia Plantation**. And this will be an event where they'll be having boats, an amphibious landing. Washington's crossing of the Delaware is always held on Christmas Day. A few years ago, I participated in the 225th anniversary of the crossing followed by the Battles of Trenton and Princeton — all in the weekend between Christmas and New Year.

**ATG:** *When you were writing, you actually visited or tried to visit the places in your book during your sabbatical?*

**ND:** Many of them, yes. I was on sabbatical last spring and back in 1996. In 1996 when I was working on the multi-media CD-ROM, I did a lot of traveling to visit some of the sites. The book coming out now is primarily a historical guide to the battlefields. And I found that as I was researching it, there were a lot of battlefields that I wasn't familiar with. So, as it turned out, the book that I just finished, has the major battlefields, particularly those which have been developed with visitor centers, have been turned into national or state parks. I'm currently working on a companion volume which covers all the stuff that has long since been forgotten, like Hammonds Mill and Barren Hill. They're not covered in the history books.

**ATG:** *Do you think that history is better understood when you visit the site?*

**ND:** In the introduction to the book I mention that when you visit a place as a tourist, you get a particular impression. You see it from the outside looking in. Even if you get a book, or a guide to assist you, you are still on the outside looking in. When you go as a reenactor, you're walking over the same ground, you're looking at it from a whole different perspective. You're looking at it, "well, I've got to run this hill," or "I've got to climb this under gun fire." Even if I went as an individual, an individual person who has been reenacting, it has a particular dimension. You get a whole different feel for it because of the activities of the reenactment. It can bring history to life. When you read a book, it raises questions that don't come up until you read the book. When you try to relive it, you've got all kinds of questions that go beyond what you learned in books.

**ATG:** *Tell me more about your research. Did you use archives and personal diaries?*

**ND:** Not the originals. I've been working from published diaries. There are a lot of published diaries and things that I've been working from. I've been going back to a lot of early histories like **Stedman's History** [*The history of the origin, progress, and termination of the American War.*] **Charles Stedman** was a lieutenant in the British Army. A lot of these people would write histories or their memoirs after the fact. One of the most interesting of these was written by **Joseph Plumb Martin**. It's been published under various titles, "Private Yankee Doodle," "The Narratives of the Life and Times of Private Yankee Doodle." It was published 50 years after the war, but studies have determined that **Martin** is amazingly accurate even that long after the war. He's probably narrating it to his grandchildren. Interestingly enough,

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he's one of the few soldiers who served from Bunker Hill to Yorktown. So you get one man's perspective on the entire war. There are few diaries like that. His has a lot of interesting tidbits in it. **Martin** was at the Battle of Fort Mifflin. He records they had a 32-pound cannon but they didn't have any cannon balls. The British would fire their 32-pound cannon and [the Americans] had a bounty that anybody who picked up cannon balls and brought them in would get a gill (4 ounces) of rum. He says, "We weren't stingy. We didn't keep the cannonballs. We sent them back to the British."

Another thing about this war, this was like our first world war. Although we talk about the Americans and the British, the British were not a homogenous army. They had Loyalists, Native Americans, all of the UK, not only the English, but the Irish, the Scots, and the Welsh. The Americans enlisted the French. They tried to get others such as the Spanish on our side, or some covert assistance from the Spanish, and some Irish. We tried to get the Russians, the Dutch, and the Swedes. They were providing some minimal assistance to our army. It's fascinating that in some areas it was like a world war and in other areas, it was a civil war — particularly in the south where there were many battles fought with no regular troops. At King's Mountain, **Patrick Ferguson** was the only British soldier. Many other engagements were like the feud between the **Hatfields** and the **McCoys**. Many engagements were used to get even with or settle grudges with one's neighbors.

**ATG: Do you think it was a revolution?**

**ND:** Yes, I do. We have the idea that **Paul Revere** rode through the New England towns, yelling, "The British are coming." He didn't do that, because he was a British citizen himself. That would be like if we had a riot outside, and we're yelling, "The Americans are coming." It doesn't make sense. He's more likely to have called out something like, "The redcoats are coming," "The army is coming," or something to that effect. So until we declared independence which was 15 months after the war broke out, up until June 1776, the intention was to reestablish ties with the British government, with the king. In my estimation the grievances were with the King. The grievances were not with Parliament, but with the King. In that sense it was a revolution; we were revolting against our government. Then it became outright war. The more I research this, the more courageous the signers of the Declaration became to me, in August 1776. (Only **John Hancock** and **Charles Thompson** signed on the 4th of July.) But the day they agreed on the Declaration of Independence and ratified it, no more than 60 miles away, in New York Harbor, the greatest gathering of Navy and Army was pulling into New York Harbor. Someone described the masts like a forest in the harbor, there were so many ships. And they were bringing the troops and the ships for the war. The signers were risking their lives, their families. One signer who changed sides when the British army was in his area was captured and forced to pledge allegiance to the king. It would be some-

what comparable to us revolting against the war in Iraq. If we're not in favor of it, what would we do, revolt against the **National Guard**? It's somewhat comparable to that I would think.

**ATG: Norm, you have a number of stories in the book. What are some of your favorites?**

**ND: Molly Corbin** is a very interesting character. She's the first woman to be buried at the cemetery at West Point. I think everybody knows the story of **Molly Pitcher**, who's also in the book. **Molly Corbin** is much the same as **Molly Pitcher**. She was at the Battle of Fort Washington which was on the New York side of the **George Washington Bridge**. The bridge is built where the fort was. Her husband was killed in that battle. He was a cannoneer. She took his place at the cannon. During the battle, she got shot in the left shoulder. No one knew she was a woman until they brought her to the hospital and the surgeon had to take care of her. She stayed in the army, I believe. She retired with a full pension. She had to fight for her pension, though. There's correspondence between her and **General Washington** about getting her pension. There's a part where she wanted rum as part of her compensation. So **Washington** specified that she was allowed to have rum but her pension should not be paid entirely in rum. She must have been a really colorful character.

Another story is of **James Caldwell** at the Battle of Connecticut Farms which was in Union, New Jersey. Union and Springfield were two different battles, three weeks apart. **Caldwell** was known as the fighting parson. He was the religious fervor behind the revolution. He was always preaching independence against the British Government. At one point in the battle, the artillery ran out of wadding for the cannons. He went into the church and came out with the **[Isaac] Watts** hymnals. He tore pages out of the **Watts** hymnals and gave them to the soldiers to use as wadding. He said, "Give 'em **Watts**, boys! Put **Watts** into 'em!" The 225th anniversary of that battle will be reenacted at the end of June — the same weekend as **ALA**. It was a very important event for Rhode Islanders so I'll have to forego attending **ALA** this year to attend the event.

**ATG: What stories were unique or unexpected?**

**ND:** One of things that surprised me was **Paul Revere** was court-martialed for treason. I didn't know that until I was researching this project. There was an event in 1779 where he was commanding the Navy and was sent up to Maine, around **Machias**. The British were building a fort there. He went up with about 24 ships. I think **Dudley Saltonstall** was the commander of the Army and because they didn't have a unified command, each one argued that the other one should begin the attack and they couldn't come to an agreement. By the time they actually decided what they were going to do, the reinforcements from the British navy had come into the vicinity. So **Paul Revere** ended up taking the ships up the **Penobscot River** and he was bottlenecked in the river. He ended up scuttling all the ships which was essentially the entire Massachusetts Navy. They had to march back to Boston. When they got back he was court-martialed for treason. They suspected that he was in cahoots with the enemy, having sunk

the entire Navy. He was exonerated.

**ATG: Those are great stories. Would you like to share a few more?**

**ND: Samuel Whitmore** lived in what's now Arlington, Massachusetts. The British were retreating from Lexington and Concord, heading back to Boston. He killed three soldiers. He was 80 years old. The soldiers had been underfire since early that morning, and it was now late in the afternoon, 4-4:30. They'd been marching all night, they were pretty tired. They hadn't slept since the day before. From Concord all the way back to Boston they were under constant gunfire. They were pretty edgy, running low on ammunition. When he killed three soldiers, they really beat into him, they bayoneted him eleven times. They left him for dead. He recovered and lived to be 98.

Another interesting story, when **Cornwallis** surrendered at Yorktown, he complained about the harshness of the terms imposed by **General Washington**. The terms they imposed at Yorktown were exactly the same as the terms that **General Charles O'Hara** imposed on **Benjamin Lincoln** in Charleston the year before. So it was sort of to punish the British that they imposed the same terms as in Charleston. They were getting tit for tat. **Cornwallis** said he was ill and sent his 2nd in command, **Charles O'Hara**. **O'Hara** thought it was the French who won the war so he wanted to surrender to **Rochambeau**. **Rochambeau** sent him to **Washington**, **Washington** sent him to his 2nd in command who was **Benjamin Lincoln** who had surrendered to **O'Hara** in Charleston the year before. The year before **Lincoln** had to surrender to the British, and now the British had to surrender to **Lincoln**. There was a lot of irony.

**ATG: The book sounds like a lot of fun to put together. Who is your audience for your book?**

**ND:** I'm looking at libraries, particularly national and state parks visitors' centers. Visitors' centers will have bookstores. That's a main market. I'm looking also to the growing market of historical tourism. This is a prime market. People who want to go on vacation, visit something and tie it with an educational experience. Another market that I'm exploring is the military market. This just came to me a couple of weeks ago. I have to explore how one markets to the military. This would be of particular interest to them. Schools, I think, even though it's not written at an elementary school level, elementary schools, and maybe junior high too, study this period, some of them may be interested. This past winter I went to Boston for the anniversary of the **Boston Tea Party**. After the event, I was walking back to the old State House beside the guy who was portraying **Paul Revere**. With us were a father and his daughter who was just celebrating her 11th birthday. She was telling me that this was her request to do this for her 11th birthday. Last November I was at an event in Fort Lee in New Jersey. I met a couple of women who were into this. They were more interested in it than their husbands. Their husbands would rather stay home and watch a football game. They were out there participating with their children because they were fascinated with the period. 